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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

No. 397 Rs. 5/-

ARJUNA FULFILS HIS VOW

Mahabharata-35

RAMAYANA QUIZ CONTEST ENTRY FORM INSIDE

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DILIP KADAM

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MAHABHARATA

Veda Vyasa's Epic on the Bharata race was first recited in public by his disciple, Vaishampayana at the behest of the ageless seer Vyasa himself.

The recital took place in the august presence of King Janamejaya –great grandson of Vyasa–and the many learned sages who had assembled for Janamejaya's Sarpa Satra (a 12-year-long snake sacrifice).

The last session of our rendering of Mahabharata described how young Abhimanyu bravely penetrated the formidable *chakravyuha* formation of the Kauravas. The heroes of the Pandava army had promised to follow him but were stopped by Jayadratha. Alone but undaunted, Abhimanyu fought furiously till six mighty Kaurava warriors surrounded and attacked him.

In a treacherous manner the sixteen-year-old boy was killed in the battlefield.

When Arjuna learnt about Abhimanyu's death and Jayadratha's role in preventing the Pandavas from coming to Abhimanyu's aid, he vowed to kill Jayadratha before sundown the following day.

Change in the frequency of publication of AMAR CHITRA KATHA

With effect from February, only one issue of Amar Chitra Katha will be published per month. Those who have paid annual subscription will continue to receive issues till the amount paid by them is adjusted against the value of the issues sent to them.

OUR FORTHCOMING TITLES:

February 1, 1988	March 1, 1988
Chennamma of Keladi	*Mahabharata* --36 The Battle at Midnight

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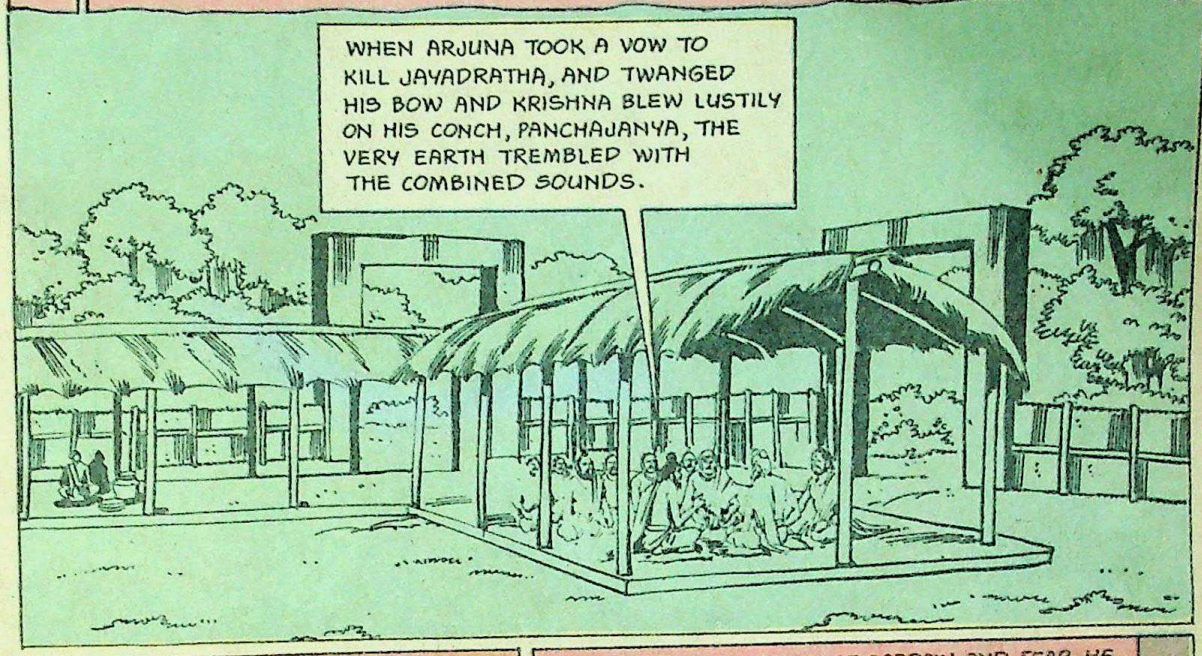
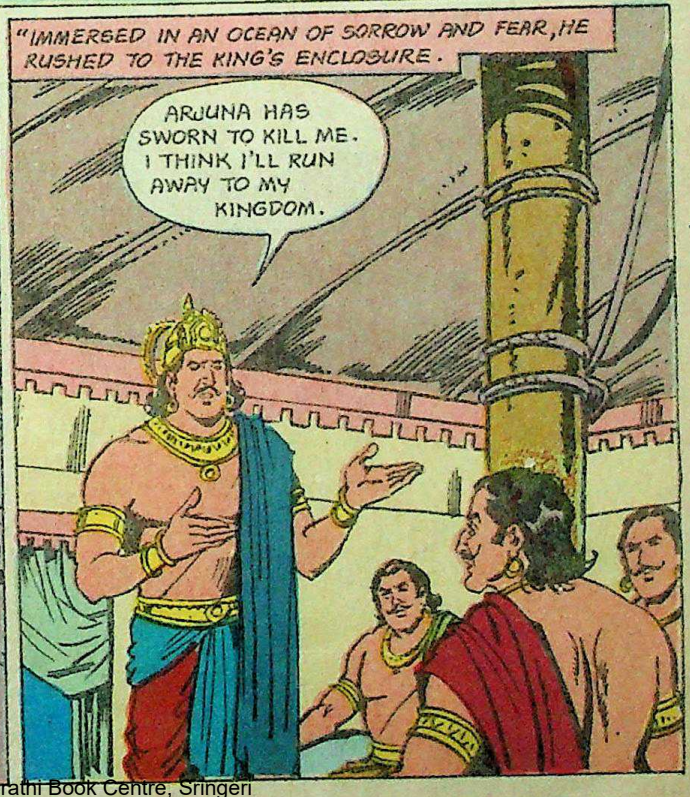
Mahabharata-35

ARJUNA FULFILS HIS VOW





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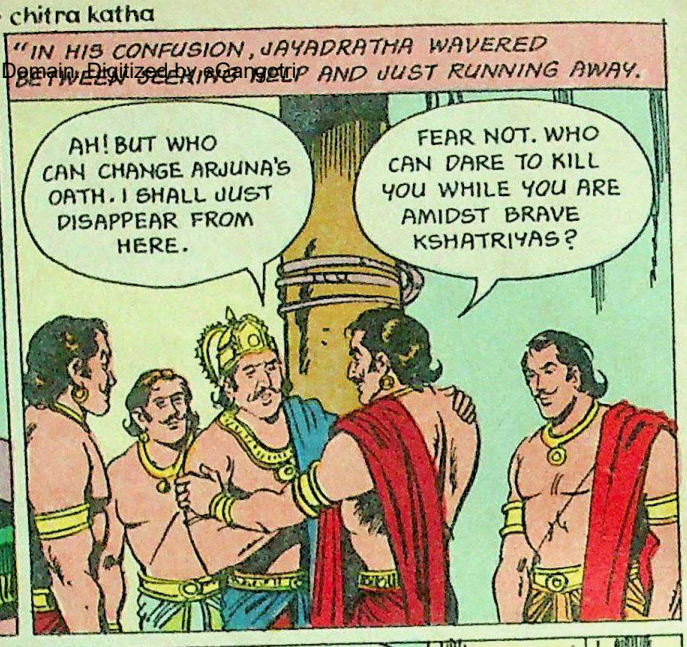

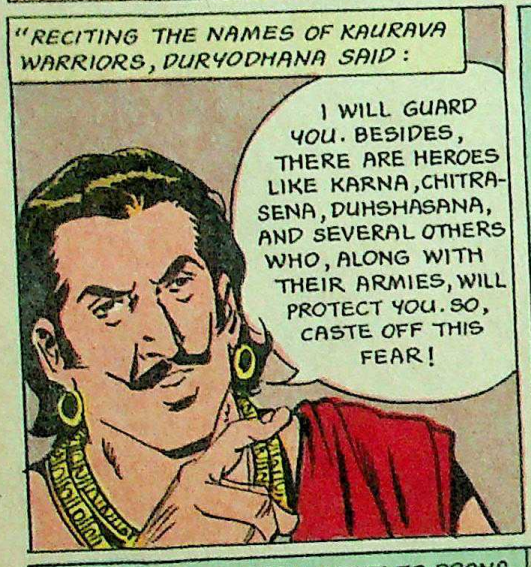

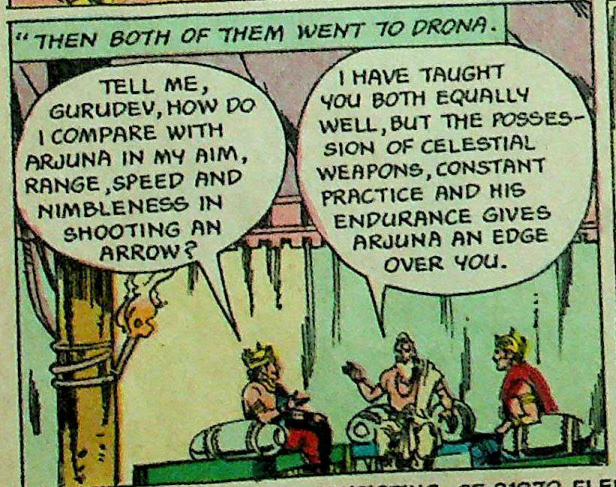

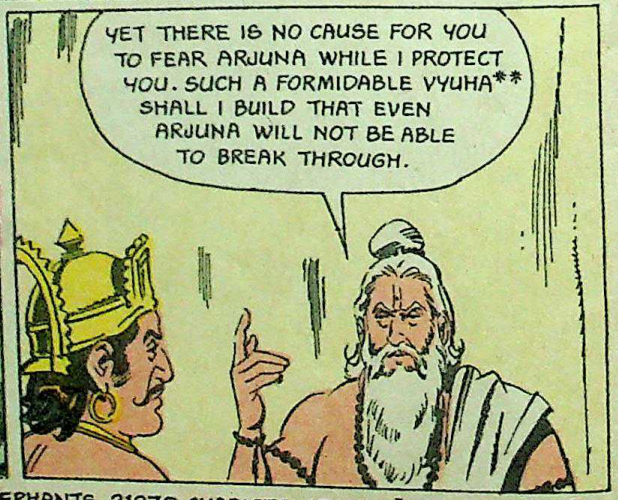

* A COMPLETE DIVISION CONSISTING OF 21870 ELEPHANTS, 21870 CHARIOTS, 65610 CĀVALRY AND 109350 INFANTRY. ** ARMY FORMATION

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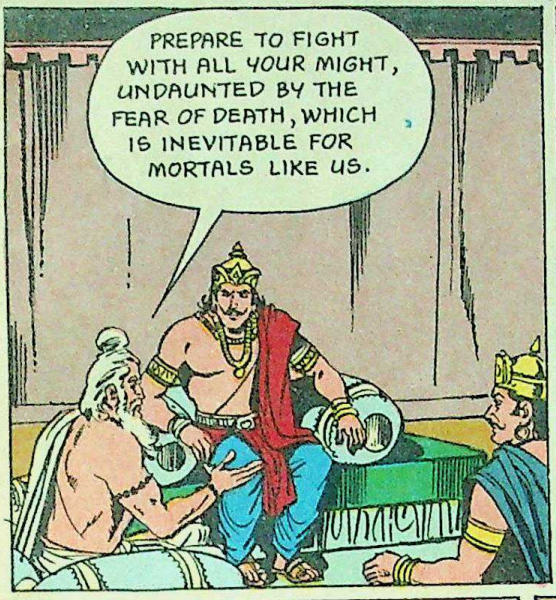

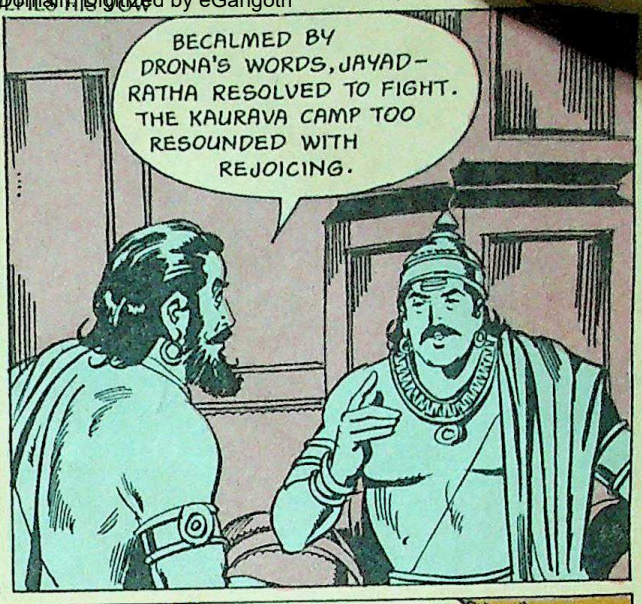

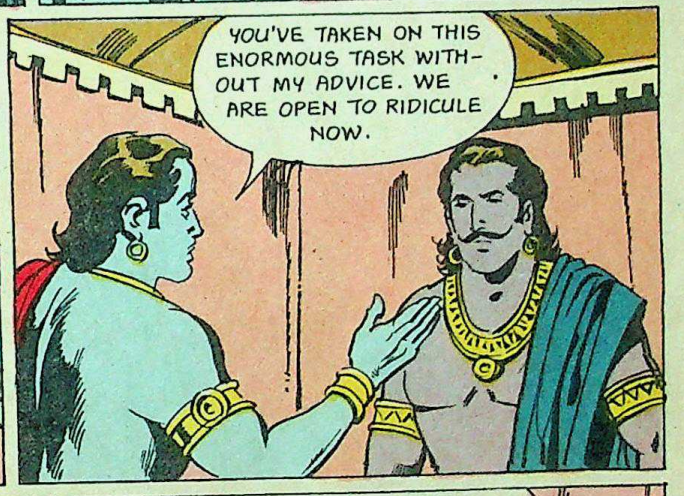

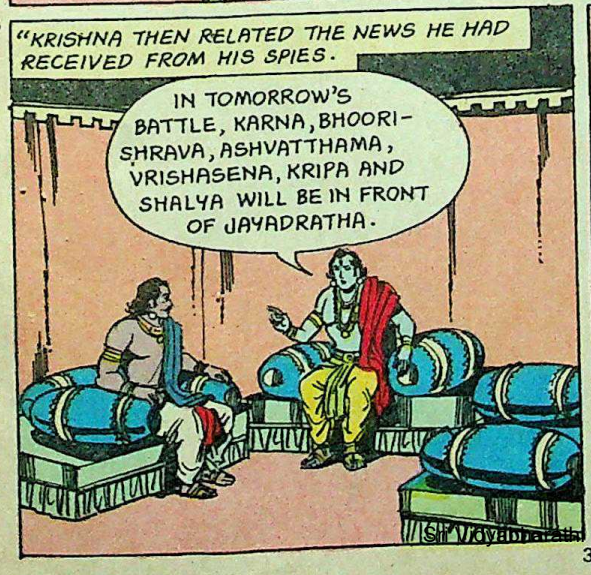

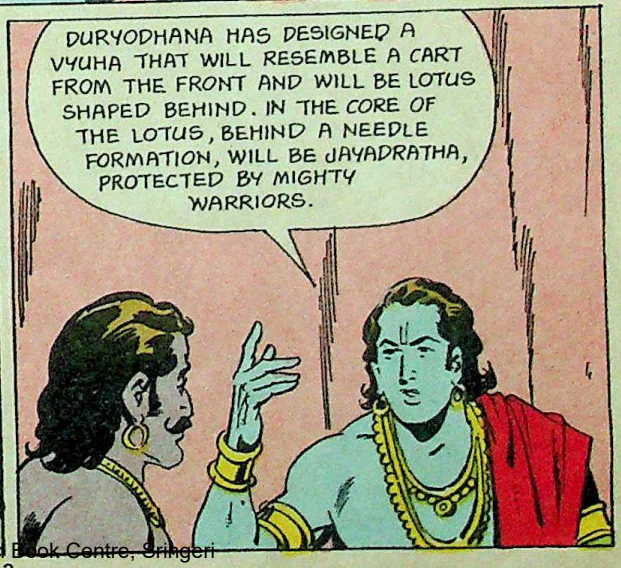

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"KRISHNA PERSUADED HIS SISTER TO CONTAIN HER SORROW AND CONSOLE HER DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, UTTARA.

BE HAPPY FOR YOUR SON'S FATE, AND WISH THAT WE TOO MAY ATTAIN A SIMILAR END.

"BACK IN HIS QUARTERS, THE THOUGHT OF ARJUNA'S VOW TORMENTED HIM. HE CALLED OUT TO DARUKA AT MIDNIGHT.

I CANNOT BEAR TO LOSE MY BELOVED ARJUNA. I MUST PROTECT HIM ANYHOW.

PREPARE MY OWN CHARIOT FOR WAR AND PLACE ALL MY WEAPONS IN IT. ANYTIME TOMORROW, WHEN YOU HEAR THE RISHABHA* NOTE ON MY CONCH, RUSH TO ME.

I'LL DO AS YOU BID TO HELP ARJUNA SUCCEED.

"MEANWHILE ARJUNA DRIFTED INTO A FITFUL SLEEP DURING WHICH HE DREAMT OF KRISHNA.

WHAT TROUBLES YOU, O ARJUNA!

HOW WILL I FULFIL MY VOW TO KILL JAYADRATHA WHEN THEY PLAN TO SURROUND HIM WITH GREAT WARRIORS?

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* CORRESPONDING TO THE NOTE "RE" OF WESTERN MUSIC.

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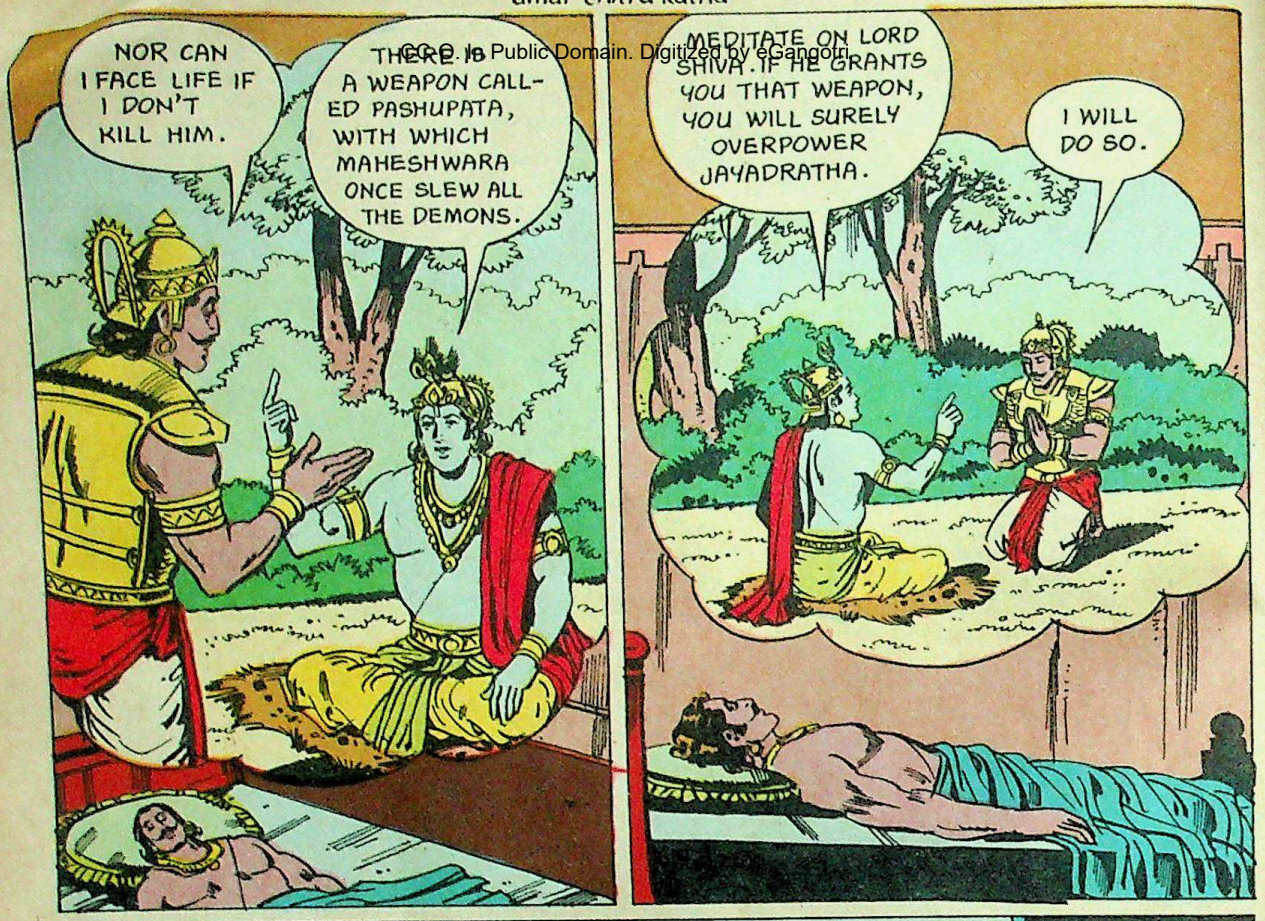

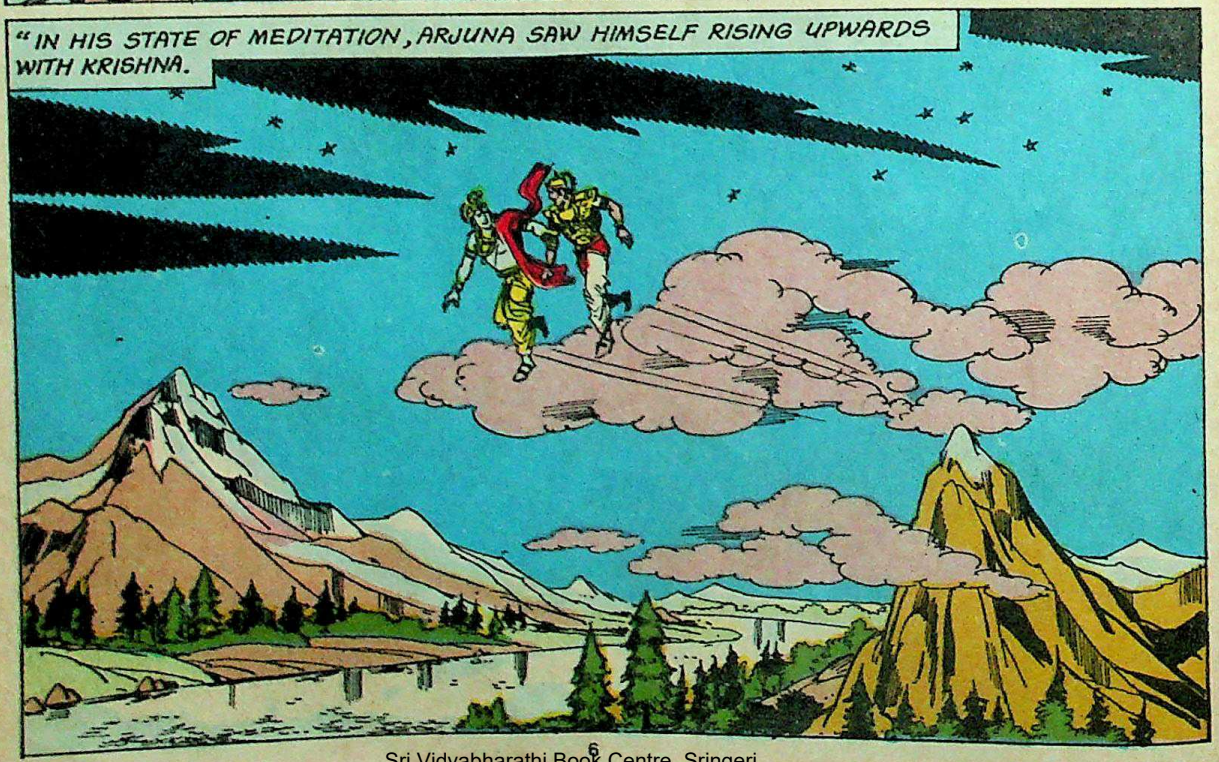

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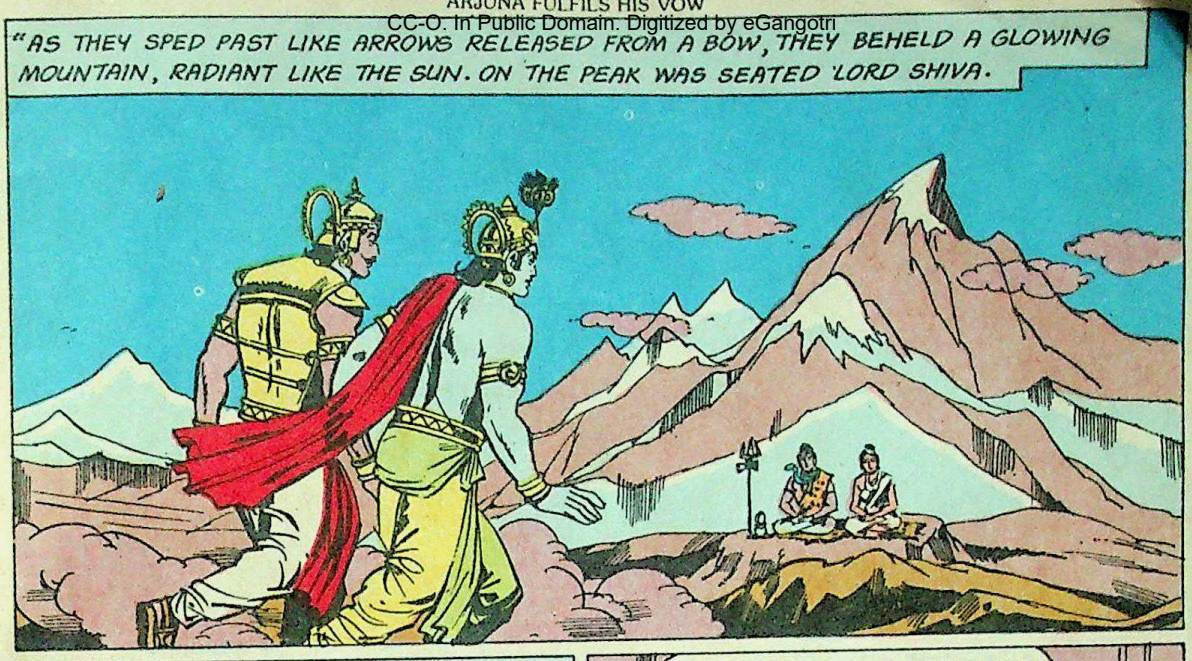

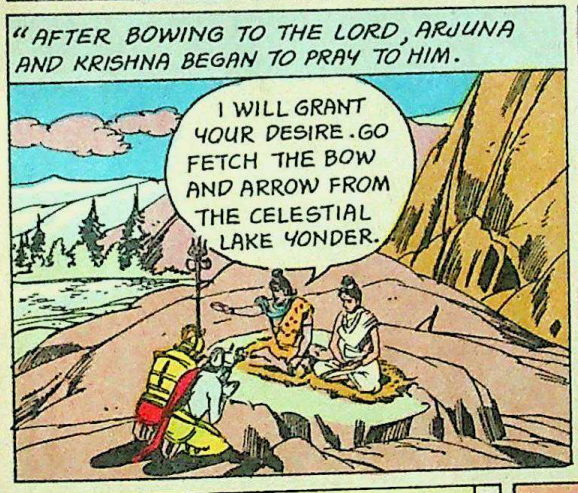

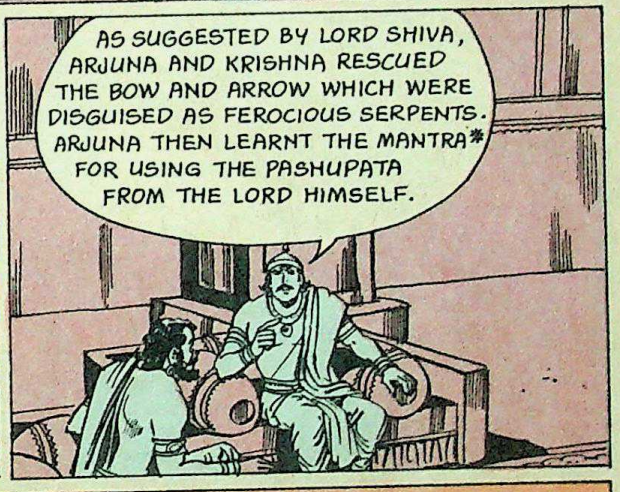

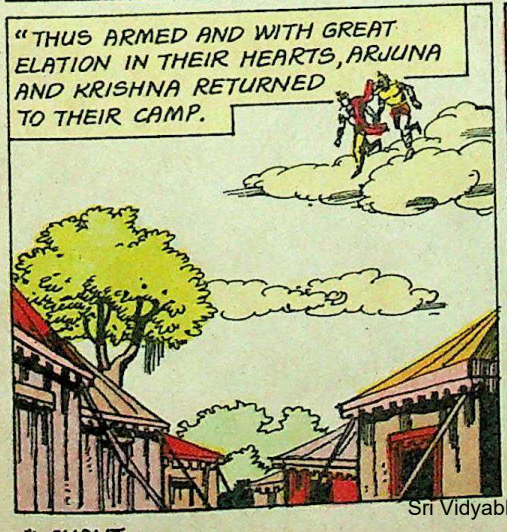

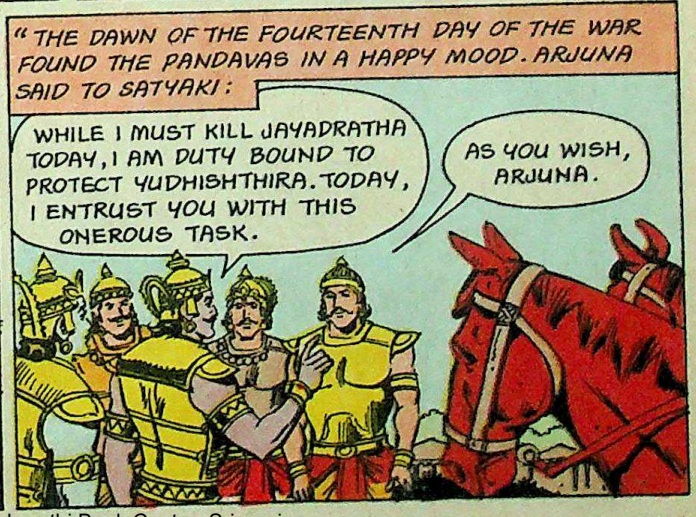

* CHANT

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"MEANWHILE AT DAYBREAK, DRONA ARRANGED HIS TROOPS IN A COMPLEX FORMATION.

ALONG WITH SIX MIGHTY WARRIORS, ONE LAKH CAVALRY, SIXTY THOUSAND CHARIOTS, FOURTEEN THOUSAND ELEPHANTS AND TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND INFANTRY, POSITION YOURSELF AT A DISTANCE OF SIX KOSA** FROM ME, O, JAYADRATHA!

"THE TRIPLE FORMATION WAS QUITE FORMIDABLE WITH DRONA GUARDING THE LOTUS FORMATION AND DURMARSHANA STATIONED IN FRONT OF THE SHAKATAVYUHA*. JUST THEN ARJUNA ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.

LEAD ME, O KRISHNA TO DURMARSHANA.

"LIKE A STRONG GALE SCATTERING CLOUDS, ARJUNA'S ARROWS DESTROYED DURMARSHANA'S FORCES. AN ENRAGED DUHSHASANA THEN CONFRONTED ARJUNA.

"SUCH WAS ARJUNA'S SPEED THAT NO ONE COULD MAKE OUT WHEN HE PLACED HIS ARROW, WHEN HE PULLED THE BOWSTRING AND WHEN HE RELEASED THE ARROW. THUS TORTURED, DUHSHASANA RAN FOR PROTECTION TO DRONA.

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* CART-FORMATION

** ABOUT 2 MILES (3-2 KM.)

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"HAVING BROKEN THROUGH THE CART FORMATION, ARJUNA SWIFTLY REACHED THE LOTUS FORMATION GUARDED BY DRONA.

BLESS ME, THAT I MAY FULFIL MY VOW. I MUST AVENGE THE DEATH OF MY SON.

BUT TO DO SO, YOU MUST FIRST DEFEAT ME.

"DETERMINED TO GUARD HIS FORMATION, DRONA DISCHARGED A SHOWER OF ARROWS AT ARJUNA.

"AN EQUALLY DETERMINED ARJUNA FOUGHT BACK. A FURIOUS BATTLE ENSUED.

"KRISHNA REALISED THAT THIS BATTLE WOULD TAKE TOO LONG. HE CAUTIONED ARJUNA —

WE CANNOT TARRY HERE ANY MORE. LET US PROCEED ONWARD.

YOU ARE RIGHT. DO WHAT YOU THINK FIT.

"KRISHNA DEFTLY TOOK THE CHARIOT AROUND DRONA AND RACED PAST HIM.

ARJUNA! NEVER BEFORE HAVE YOU GONE WITHOUT DEFEATING YOUR ENEMY.

YOU ARE MY GURU, NOT MY ENEMY.

ANXIOUS TO REACH JAYADRATHA, ARJUNA PIERCED THROUGH THE KAURAVA FORCES, ABLY REPELLING THE CHALLENGES OF MANY MIGHTY WARRIORS. SEEING THE SOLDIERS SCATTER HITHER-THITHER, YOUR SON DURYODHANA RUSHED TO DRONA.

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ARJUNA HAS MANAGED TO CRUSH OUR FORCES AND PIERCE THROUGH THE COMPLEX FORMATION. WHY! HE EVEN PASSED YOU BY. SURELY THE WARRIORS PROTECTING JAYADRATHA WILL LOSE HEART NOW..

"EXTREME DISTRESS AT THE STATE OF HIS ARMY MADE DURYODHANA RECKLESS IN HIS SPEECH.

...WE DO OUR BEST TO KEEP YOU HAPPY. YET YOU ARE BENT ON PLEASING THE PANDAVAS. HAD I KNOWN THAT YOU ARE LIKE A KNIFE CONCEALED IN A HONEYPOT, I WOULD HAVE LET JAYADRATHA GO HOME. DO SOMETHING NOW TO SAVE HIM.

I FORGIVE YOUR OUTBURST. LIKE A FATHER FORGIVES HIS SON. BUT THE TRUTH IS ARJUNA IS TOO FAST FOR ME NOW THAT I AM GETTING OLD.

BESIDES, THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO FULFIL MY VOW OF KILLING YUDHISHTHIRA, UNPROTECTED AS HE IS WITHOUT ARJUNA. GO FORTH AND CONFRONT ARJUNA.

YOU EXPECT ME TO CONQUER ARJUNA, WHO GOT PAST AN ACE WARRIOR LIKE YOU?

I WILL TIE A GOLDEN ARMOUR ON YOU WHICH WILL BE IMPENETRABLE TO ALL WEAPONS. WITH IT, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONFRONT EVEN ARJUNA.

"MEANWHILE THE PANDAVA ARMY LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON DRONA'S TROOPS. A FEARSOME BATTLE TOOK PLACE BETWEEN DRONA AND DHRISHTADYUMNA, WHO HAD JUMPED FROM HIS CHARIOT ONTO DRONA'S HORSES.

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"SATYAKI INTERVENED IN TIME TO SAVE DHRISHTADYUMNA'S LIFE. HE BROKE DRONA'S BOW.

"NO SOONER DID DRONA TAKE UP A NEW BOW, THAN SATYAKI MANAGED TO CUT ITS STRING WITH HIS ARROW.

SATYAKI IS DISPLAYING EXCEPTIONAL VALOUR TODAY. HE SEEMS TO EQUAL BHEESHMA AND ARJUNA.

"SATYAKI MATCHED DRONA'S ONSLAUGHT. SOON, YUDHISHTHIRA, BHEEMA, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA CAME TO HIS HELP AND THE DUEL TURNED TO A GENERAL FIGHT.

"MEANWHILE, ARJUNA WAS SPEEDING TOWARDS JAYADRATHA, CONFRONTING AND QUELLING ALL WHO CAME IN HIS WAY.

MY HORSES ARE WOUNDED AND WEARY AND JAYADRATHA IS STILL FAR AWAY. WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

YES, WE MUST REST THE HORSES AWHILE.

"ARJUNA LEAPT OUT OF THE CHARIOT AND BEGAN TO FIGHT ON FOOT. THE KAURAVAS THOUGHT THIS WAS AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO OVERCOME ARJUNA AND ATTACKED HIM FROM ALL SIDES. BUT ARJUNA, ON FOOT, WAS AS SWIFT AS HE WAS ON HIS CHARIOT.

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"KRISHNA, WHO WAS SOOTHING THE HORSES AND REMOVING THE ARROWS FROM THEIR BODIES, SAID TO ARJUNA:

ARJUNA! THERE IS NO WATER HERE FOR THE HORSES TO DRINK.

HERE IS THE WATER!

"AS SOON AS HIS ARROW STRUCK THE GROUND, THERE APPEARED A PLACID POOL, WITH BEAUTIFUL LOTUSES AND WATERBIRDS ENHANCING THE VIEW. BESIDES IT, WAS A COTTAGE MADE ENTIRELY OF ARROWS TO WHICH KRISHNA LED THE HORSES. SAFE IN ITS CONFINES, HE REMOVED THEIR ARROWS, MASSAGED THEM AND QUENCHED THEIR THIRST.

"KRISHNA THEN YOKED THE HORSES BACK TO THE CHARIOT AND RUSHED TO FULFIL THEIR MISSION.

"DURYODHANA CHASED THEM, IN THE HOPE OF SAVING JAYADRATHA, AND SOON OVERTOOK THEM.

IT IS SHEER GOOD LUCK THAT DURYODHANA IS HERE, FACING YOU. KILL HIM! REMEMBER HOW HE CHEATED YOU OUT OF YOUR KINGDOM!

LEAD ME TO HIM!

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"HEARING KRISHNA AND ARJUNA ROAR WITH JOY, THE HEARTS OF KAURAVA SOLDIERS WERE FILLED WITH FOREBODING.

OUR KING IS DEAD.

DURYODHANA IS KILLED!

"DURYODHANA QUICKLY REASSURED HIS MEN AND CLAIMED THAT HE WOULD IN FACT KILL HIS ADVERSARIES.

COME, PARTHA*! TRY ALL YOUR CELESTIAL AND EARTHLY WEAPONS ON ME.

"EVEN AS HE CHALLENGED ARJUNA, DURYODHANA HURLED TEN ARROWS AT KRISHNA'S CHEST AND SEVERAL OTHERS AT ARJUNA. ARJUNA THEN AIMED HIS POWERFUL ARROWS AT DURYODHANA, BUT...

THIS IS STRANGE INDEED, ARJUNA, YOUR ARROWS ARE JUST SLIDING OFF FROM HIS BODY INSTEAD OF PIERCING IT.

I BELIEVE DRONA HAS TIED ON AN IMPENETRABLE ARMOUR ON DURYODHANA. IT WILL RESIST ALL WEAPONS. NEVERTHELESS, TODAY YOU SHALL SEE ME DEFEAT DURYODHANA.

"...WITH HIS WELL-AIMED ARROWS, ARJUNA SYSTEMATICALLY DESTROYED DURYODHANA'S HORSES, THEN HIS CHARIOTEER AND FINALLY THE CHARIOT ITSELF.

"CLEVERLY, HE AIMED HIS ARROWS UNDER DURYODHANA'S NAILS. UNABLE TO BEAR THE PAIN, DURYODHANA TOOK TO HIS HEELS.

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* ARJUNA

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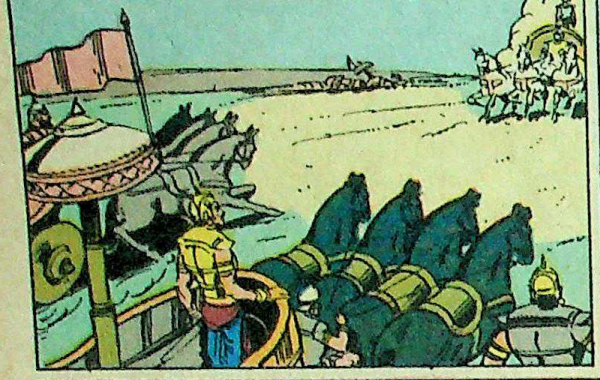
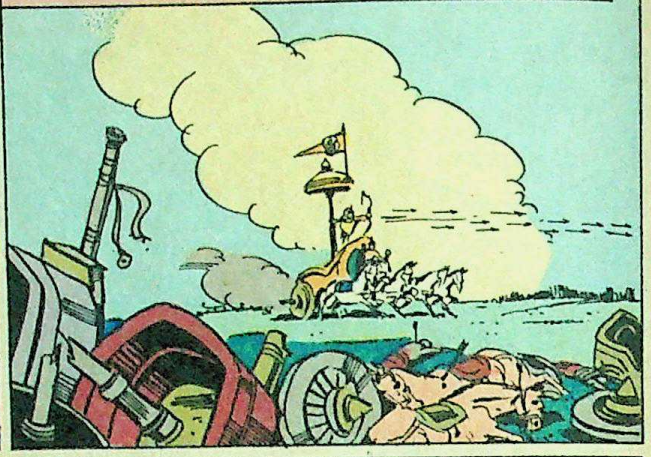
"BUT SOON HE RETURNED, ACCOMPANIED BY EIGHT MIGHTY WARRIORS, AND SURROUNDED ARJUNA IN ORDER TO PROTECT JAYADRATHA.



"BUT ARJUNA PROVED MORE THAN A MATCH FOR THEM, AND DISPELLED THEIR FORCES.



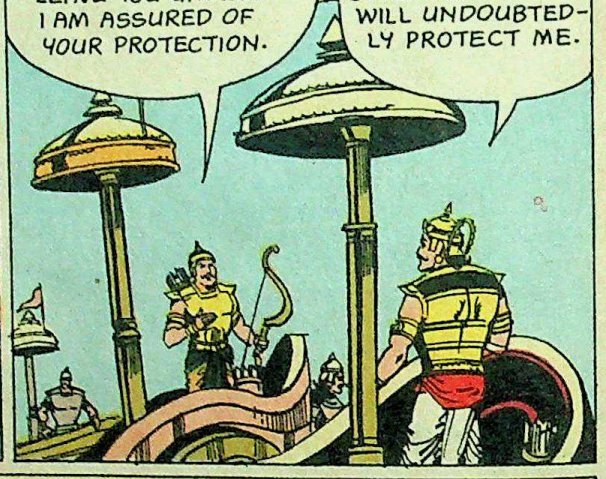
"MEANWHILE, YUDHISHTHIRA BECAME APPREHENSIVE AT HEARING THE SOUND FROM THE KAURAVA ARMY. HE SAID TO SATYAKI —

ARJUNA, YOUR GURU AND TEACHER APPEARS TO BE IN TROUBLE. YOU MUST GO TO HIS AID.

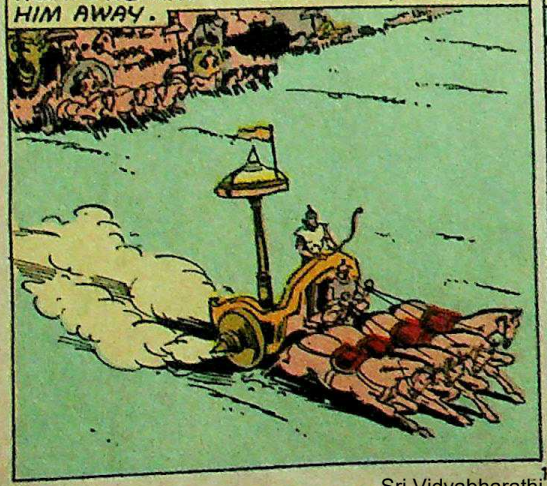
BUT I CANNOT! ARJUNA HAS ENTRUSTED ME TO GUARD OVER YOU TODAY.

HE HAS LEFT YOU IN MY CARE. I CANNOT LEAVE YOU UNLESS I AM ASSURED OF YOUR PROTECTION.

GO TO ARJUNA. BHEEMA AND THE OTHER BROTHERS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PROTECT ME.



"YUDHISHTHIRA ARRANGED FOR SATYAKI'S CHARIOT TO BE LOADED WITH WEAPONS AND IMPLEMENTS, AND SENT HIM AWAY.



"SATYAKI THEN FORCED HIS WAY THROUGH THE KAURAVA FORMATION, TRYING TO FOLLOW ARJUNA. BUT DRONA STOPPED HIM...

YOUR MENTOR RAN AWAY LIKE A COWARD. UNLESS YOU TOO DECIDE TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE, YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE ALIVE TODAY.

BUT A DISCIPLE MUST ALWAYS FOLLOW HIS GURU!

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"OKAY TROOPS, OPEN FIRE!"

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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

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1 What was the answer given to the question/statement?

a. What do you want Kumbhakarna?

b. It is the cry of our friend, the one who caused the tremor that brought you back to me. He was lifting Mount Kailas.

c. I too need your help to kill Vali and win back my wife.

2 Identify the speakers (A, B and C) in the two panels given below

3 Fill in the blanks

a. I am Mainaka ___ once saved m lif

b. He who succeds ___ ___, will

4 Identify the characte belong here:

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RAMAYANA?

YANA QUIZ CONTEST
Chitra Katha.*

_____ ____ had
life.
ds in _____
l win Sita's hand.

er who does not

w:

ENTRY FORM

ANSWERS

All your answers should be written neatly in the blank space given against each item.

1. What was the answer to the question/statement?
   a. _____
   b. _____
   c. _____
2. Identify the speakers (A, B and C) in the two panels.
   A. _____
   B. _____
   C. _____
3. Fill in the blanks:
   a. _____
   b. _____
4. Identify the character who does not belong here:
   _____

5

Now complete the slogan using not more than ten additional words.
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2. Each contestant can send in any number of entries, but each entry must be on the OFFICIAL entry form available in Amar Chitra Katha titles dated January 1, 1988. and January 15, 1988.
3. Incomplete or illegible entry forms will be disqualified.
4. Entries received after February 28, 1988 will not be considered.
5. Entries must be addressed to "Ramayana Quiz Contest", C/o India Book House Pvt. Ltd., Mahalaxmi Chambers, 22 Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay 400 026.
6. All entries must be sent by post. India Book House Pvt. Ltd. will not be responsible for entries lost or damaged in transit.
7. The names of the winners of the first four prizes will be announced in the April issue of Amar Chitra Katha. Winners will also be informed individually by post.
8. The decision of our panel of judges will be final and binding, and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

PRIZES: The First Prize of Rs.5000/- will be awarded to the entry with all correct answers and the best completed slogan. The 2nd prize of Rs.3000/- will be awarded to the entry with all-correct answers and the next-best slogan, and so on successively upto the 5th prize. In the event of an all-correct entry being not received, the entry with maximum correct entries with the best slogan will be eligible for the first prize.

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LAST DATE FOR ENTRIES:
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"REALISING THAT DRONA WOULD FOLLOW HIM, SATYAKI DEFTLY GUIDED HIS CHARIOTEER TO MAKE A WAY THROUGH THE VARIOUS ARMIES, CONSTITUTING THE KAURAVA FORCE.

"WHOEVER CAME IN HIS PATH, WAS RUTHLESSLY ATTACKED.

"MEANWHILE, YUDHISHTHIRA'S ANXIETY GREW.

I SENT SATYAKI TO LOOK FOR ARJUNA. NOW I'M WORRIED ABOUT BOTH OF THEM.

"NEARLY FAINT WITH WORRY, HE APPROACHED BHEEMA.

WHAT IS WRONG? NEVER BEFORE HAVE I SEEN YOU SO ANXIOUS. I'LL DO ANYTHING TO REMOVE YOUR ANXIETY.

I HEAR KRISHNA BLOWING HIS CONCH IN ANGER. SURELY ARJUNA HAS BEEN KILLED IN BATTLE.

GO AND SEEK OUT ARJUNA AND SATYAKI. I COMMAND YOU TO DO SO. SIGNAL ME, WHEN YOU DO FIND THEM SAFE, WITH YOUR LION ROAR.

DISCARD YOUR WORRY AND SORROW. I WILL DO AS YOU BID.

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"BHEEMA TOO LEFT, LEAVING YUDHISHTHIRA IN DHRISHTADYUMNA'S CARE —

YOU KNOW THAT DRONA WILL TRY ANYTHING TO CAPTURE YUDHISHTHIRA. PROTECTING HIM IS NOW YOUR TASK FOR THE DAY.

I WILL DO AS YOU WISH.

O KING! ON HIS WAY, BHEEMA WAS ACCOSTED BY YOUR SONS, BUT HE CROSSED THEIR PATH AND FELL UPON DRONA'S ARMY.

"EXPECTING BHEEMA TO PAY HIS RESPECTS BEFORE PROCEEDING, DRONA SAID —

WITH MY CONSENT, YOUR BROTHER, ARJUNA PENETRATED THE FORMATION. YOU MAY ALSO DO SO.

ARJUNA DOESN'T NEED YOUR CONSENT THOUGH HE MAY HAVE INDEED SHOWN DUE RESPECT TO YOU.

BUT I AM NOT LIKE THE KIND-HEARTED ARJUNA. I AM BHEEMASENA —YOUR ENEMY!

"BHEEMA LIFTED HIS MACE AND TWIRLED IT AT DRONA, WHO DEFTLY JUMPED OUT OF HIS CHARIOT.

"SEVERAL WARRIOR KINGS THEN RUSHED TO SURROUND BHEEMA, BUT HE BORE THEIR ATTACK LIKE A MIGHTY MOUNTAIN.

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"MEANWHILE, CLIMBING ONTO ANOTHER CHARIOT, DRONA AGAIN JOINED THE FRAY. BUT BHEEMA WAS READY.

"JUST AS A MIGHTY GALE TEARS TREES ASUNDER, BHEEMA CRUSHED THE KAURAVAS AND FORGED HIS WAY AHEAD.

"AS SOON AS HE SIGHTED ARJUNA, BHEEMA ROARED LIKE A THUNDERCLOUD...

"...WHICH WAS ECHOED BY ARJUNA AND KRISHNA. THESE FEROCIOUS SOUNDS REACHED YUDHISHTHIRA AND GLADDENED HIS HEART.

"KARNA ATTACKED BHEEMA AND THE BATTLE THAT ENSUED MADE MIGHTY WARRIORS TREMBLE WITH FEAR.

"ALTHOUGH HE EASILY DESTROYED ALL THOSE WHO CAME TO KARNA'S AID, BHEEMA REFRAINED FROM KILLING KARNA AS HE RECALLED THAT ARJUNA HAD VOWED TO DO SO.

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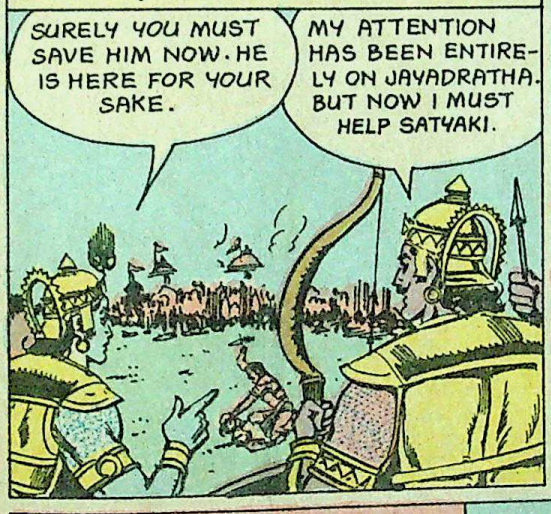
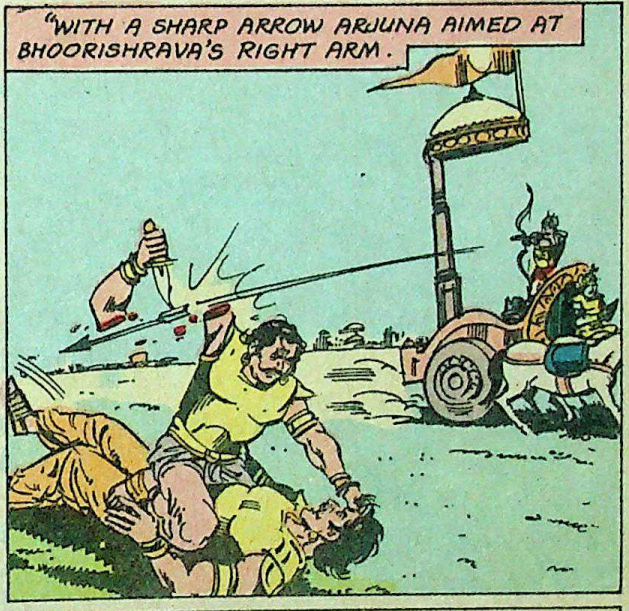
"THE FIGHT BETWEEN SATYAKI AND BHOORISHRAVA PROGRESSED FROM AN ARMED COMBAT TO BAREHAND WRESTLING.

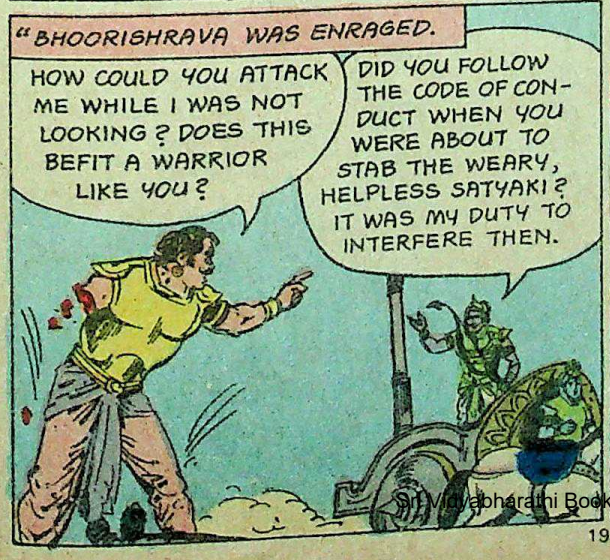
"WHEN BHOORISHRAVA YANKED SATYAKI'S HAIR, PUT HIS FOOT ON HIS CHEST AND WAS ABOUT TO CUT HIS HEAD OFF, KRISHNA BESEECHED ARJUNA—



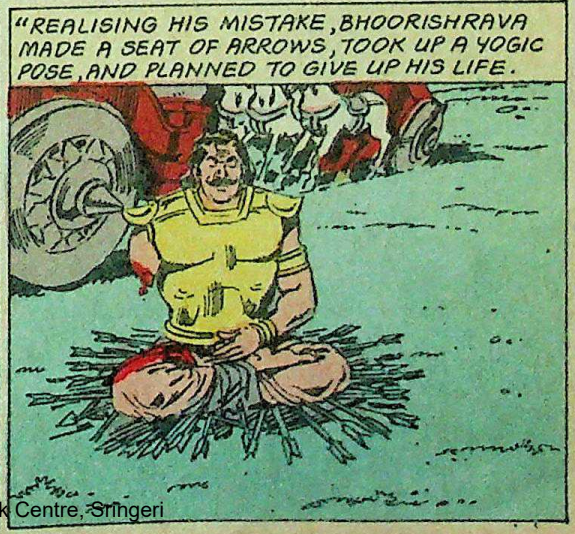
"WITH A SHARP ARROW ARJUNA AIMED AT BHOORISHRAVA'S RIGHT ARM.



"BHOORISHRAVA WAS ENRAGED.



"REALISING HIS MISTAKE, BHOORISHRAVA MADE A SEAT OF ARROWS, TOOK UP A YOGIC POSE, AND PLANNED TO GIVE UP HIS LIFE.



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"MEANWHILE SATYAKI GAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AND ATTACKED BHOORISHRAVA.

"HIS ACTION MET WITH A SALVO OF CRITICISM FROM ALL SIDES.

THOSE OF YOU WHO FEEL I HAVE ACTED WRONGLY, HOW DO YOU JUDGE THE KILLING OF ABHIMANYU? I FEEL I DID RIGHT.

"AFTER BHOORISHRAVA WAS KILLED, ARJUNA SAID TO KRISHNA —

LEAD THE CHARIOT ONTO JAYADRATHA. BEHOLD HOW FAST THE SUN IS SETTING!

"SEEING THE PACE AT WHICH ARJUNA WAS APPROACHING JAYADRATHA, SEVERAL KAURAVA WARRIORS GOT READY TO REPEL HIM.

"DURYODHANA SAID TO KARNA —

THE DECISIVE HOUR IS NEAR, KARNA! IF HE CANNOT KILL JAYADRATHA BY SUN-DOWN, ARJUNA MUST HIMSELF DIE.

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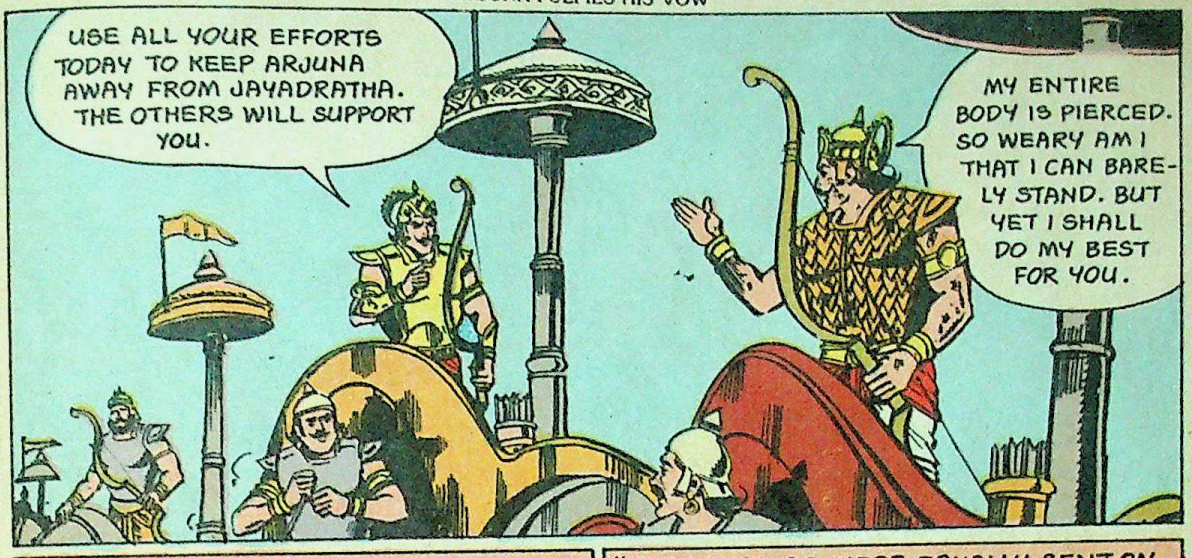

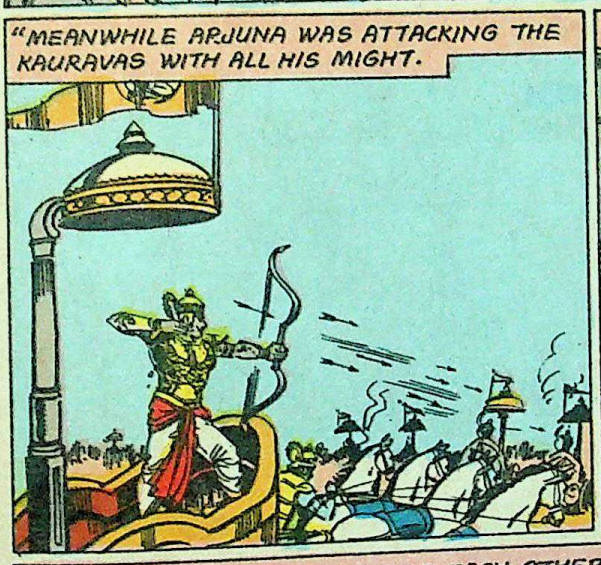

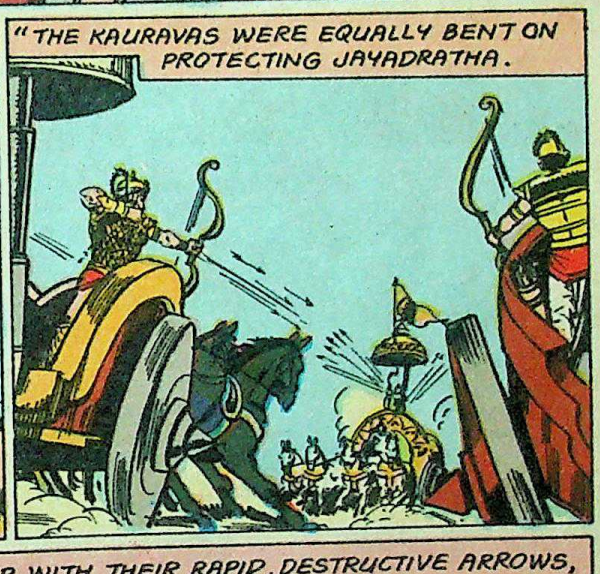

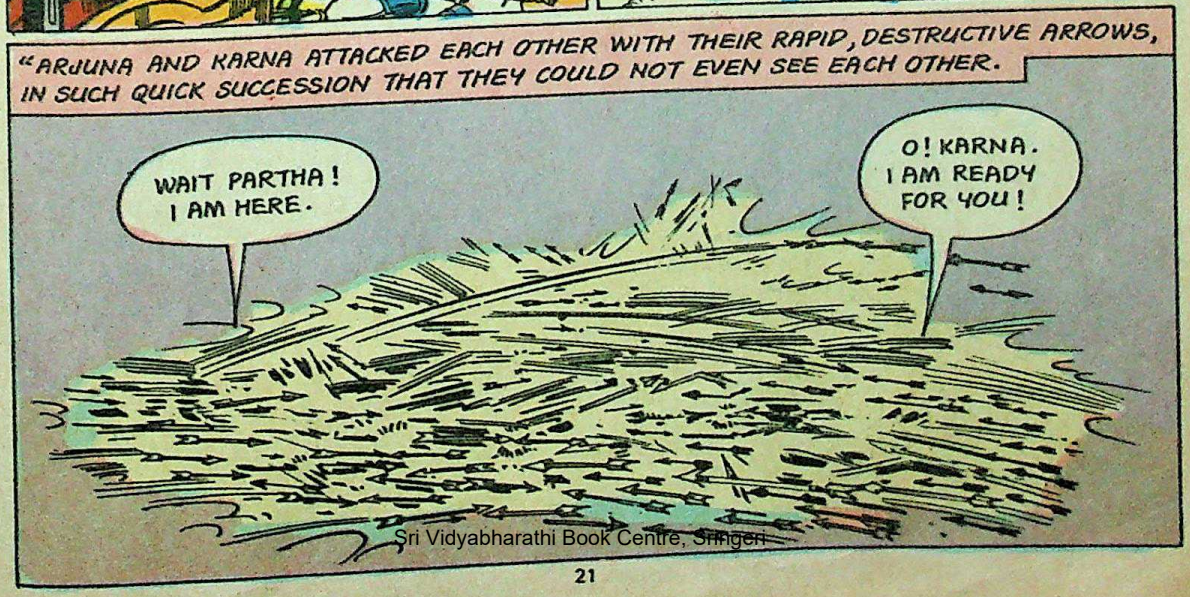

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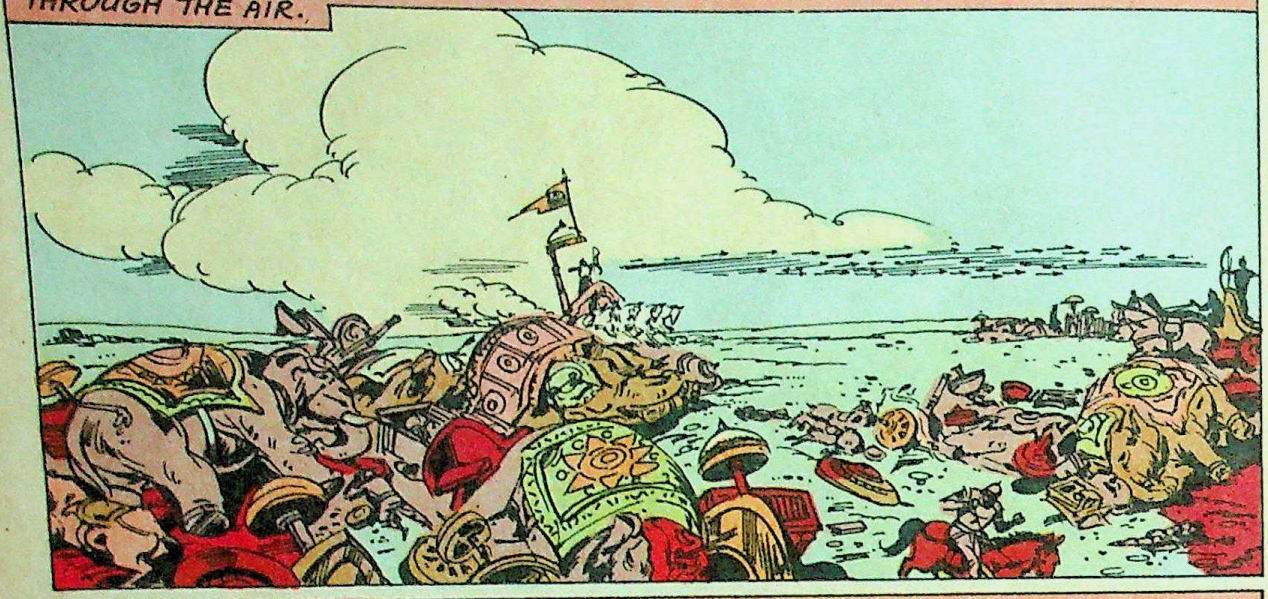
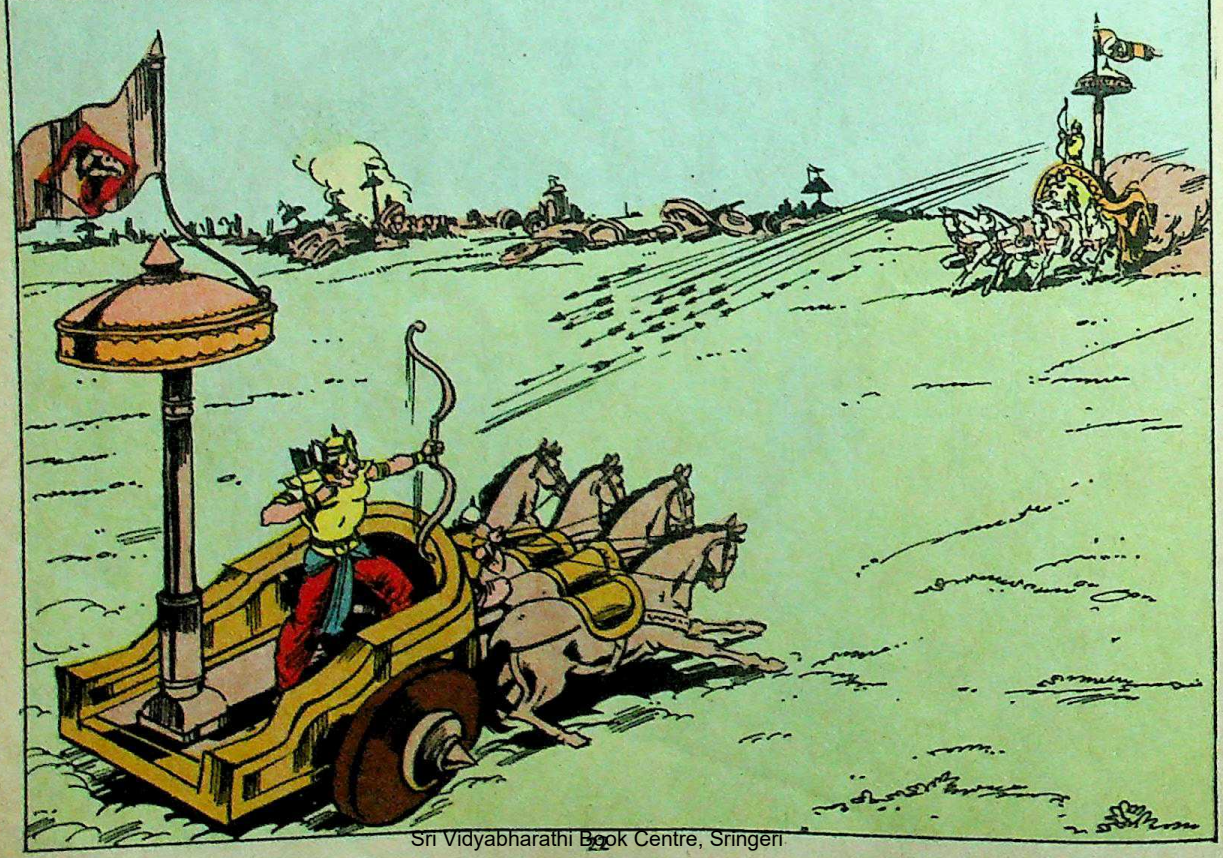
"THE BATTLEFIELD LAY STREWN WITH DEAD, HEADLESS, FALLEN ELEPHANTS, WRECKED CHARIOTS AND THOUSANDS OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS TREMBLING WITH PAIN. MAKING HIS WAY THROUGH ALL THIS, ARJUNA SPED TOWARDS JAYADRATHA. HIS ARROWS CAME IN SUCH QUICK SUCCESSION THAT THEY LOOKED LIKE A HUGE FLOCK OF SWANS FLYING THROUGH THE AIR.



"AS SOON AS HE REACHED WHERE JAYADRATHA WAS, HE SHOT 64 ARROWS AT HIM AND WOUNDED HIM.



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"INFURIATED, JAYADRATHA WOUNDED BOTH KRISHNA AND ARJUNA WITH HIS ARROWS AND ONE OF HIS ARROWS PIERCED THROUGH ARJUNA'S BANNER.

"ARJUNA BEHEADED JAYADRATHA'S CHARIOTEER AND WITH ANOTHER ARROW BROUGHT DOWN JAYADRATHA'S BANNER AS WELL AS THE POST.

"SEEING THE COURSE OF THE SUN IN THE WEST, KRISHNA TOLD ARJUNA —

JAYADRATHA IS PROTECTED BY SIX WARRIORS YOU MUST KILL THEM FIRST.

USING MY YOGIC POWERS, I WILL CREATE AN ILLUSION SO THAT JAYADRATHA ALONE WILL SEE THE SUN SETTING.

CONSIDERING HIMSELF SAFE AFTER SUNSET, HE WILL EXPOSE HIMSELF.

AT THAT OPPORTUNE MOMENT, ATTACK AND KILL HIM. DON'T BE DISMAYED IF THE SUN APPEARS TO HAVE SET.

AS YOU WISH, OH LORD!

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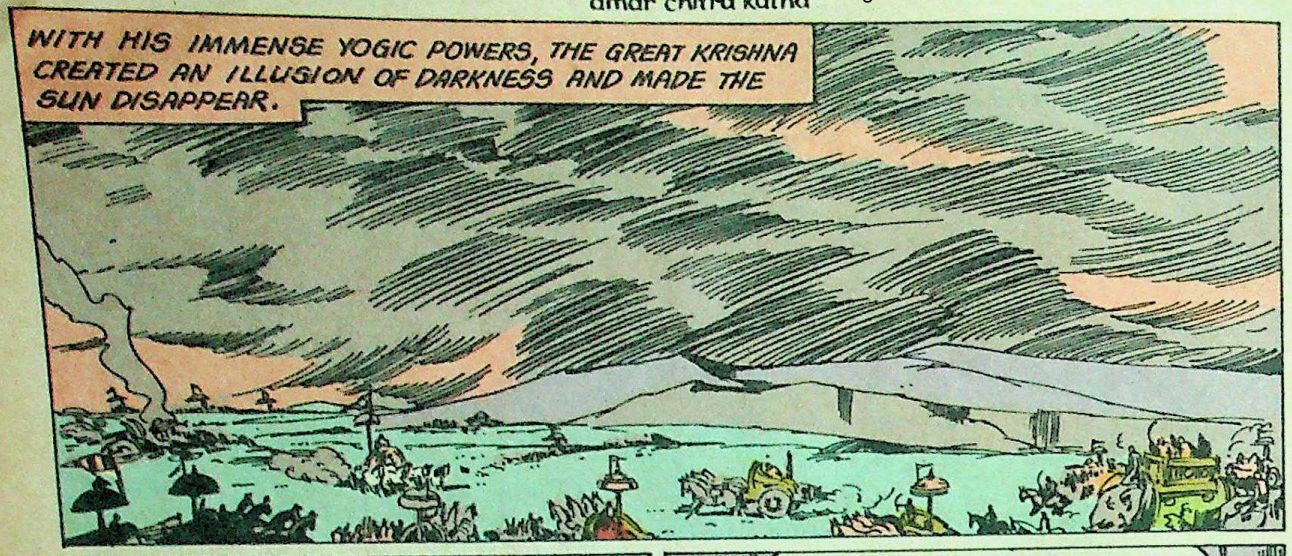

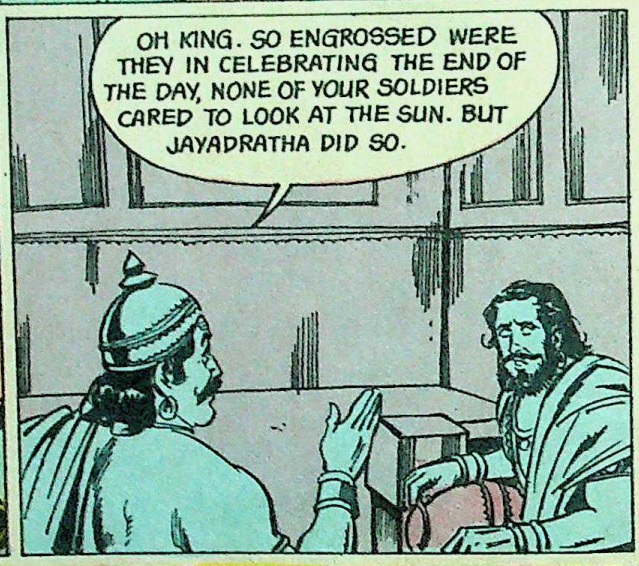

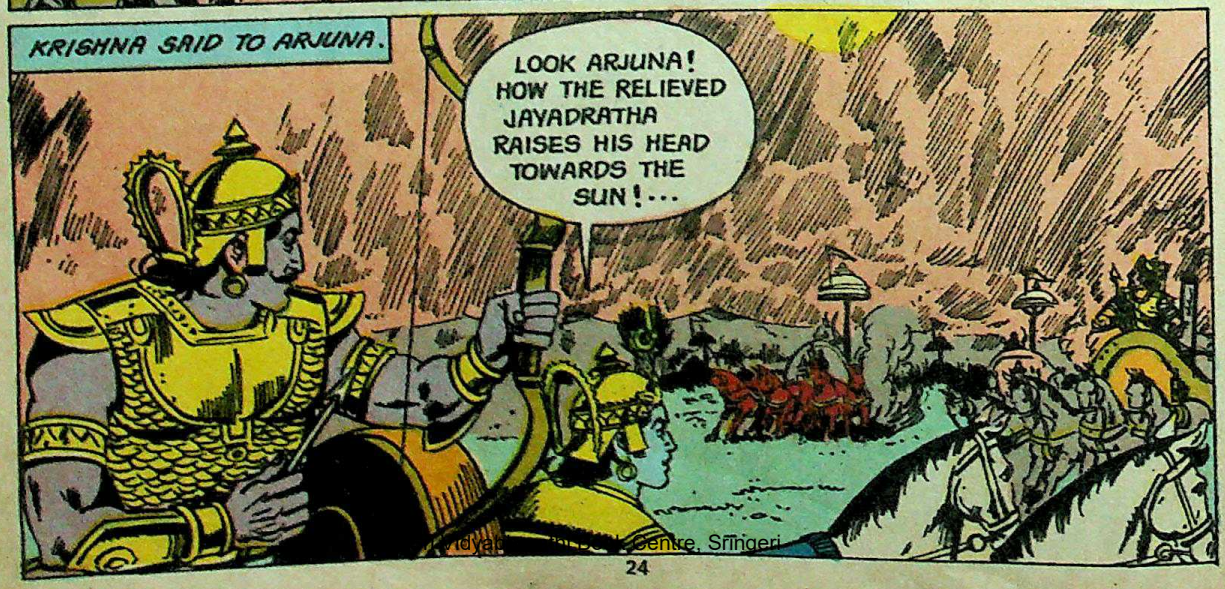

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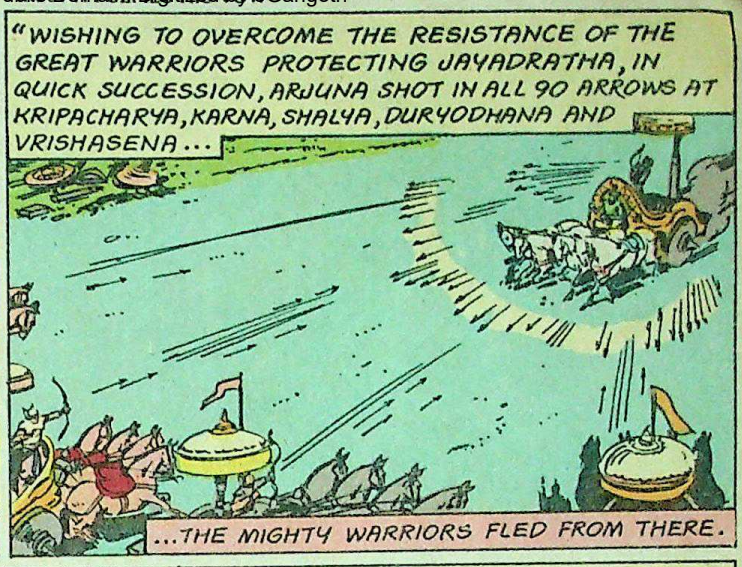

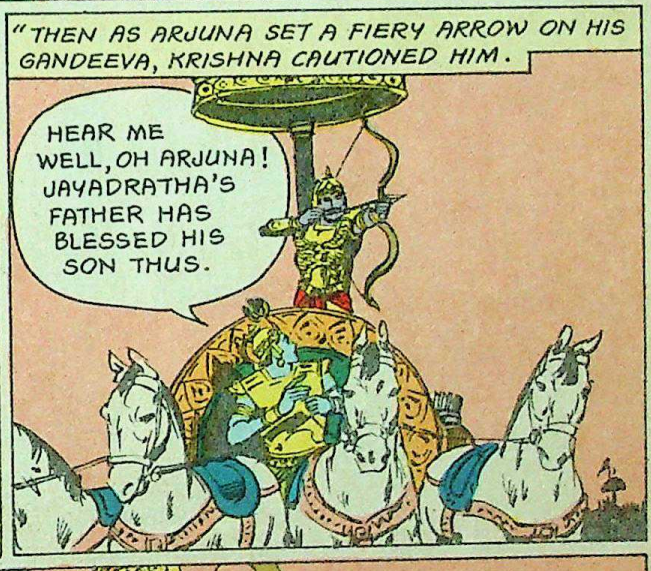

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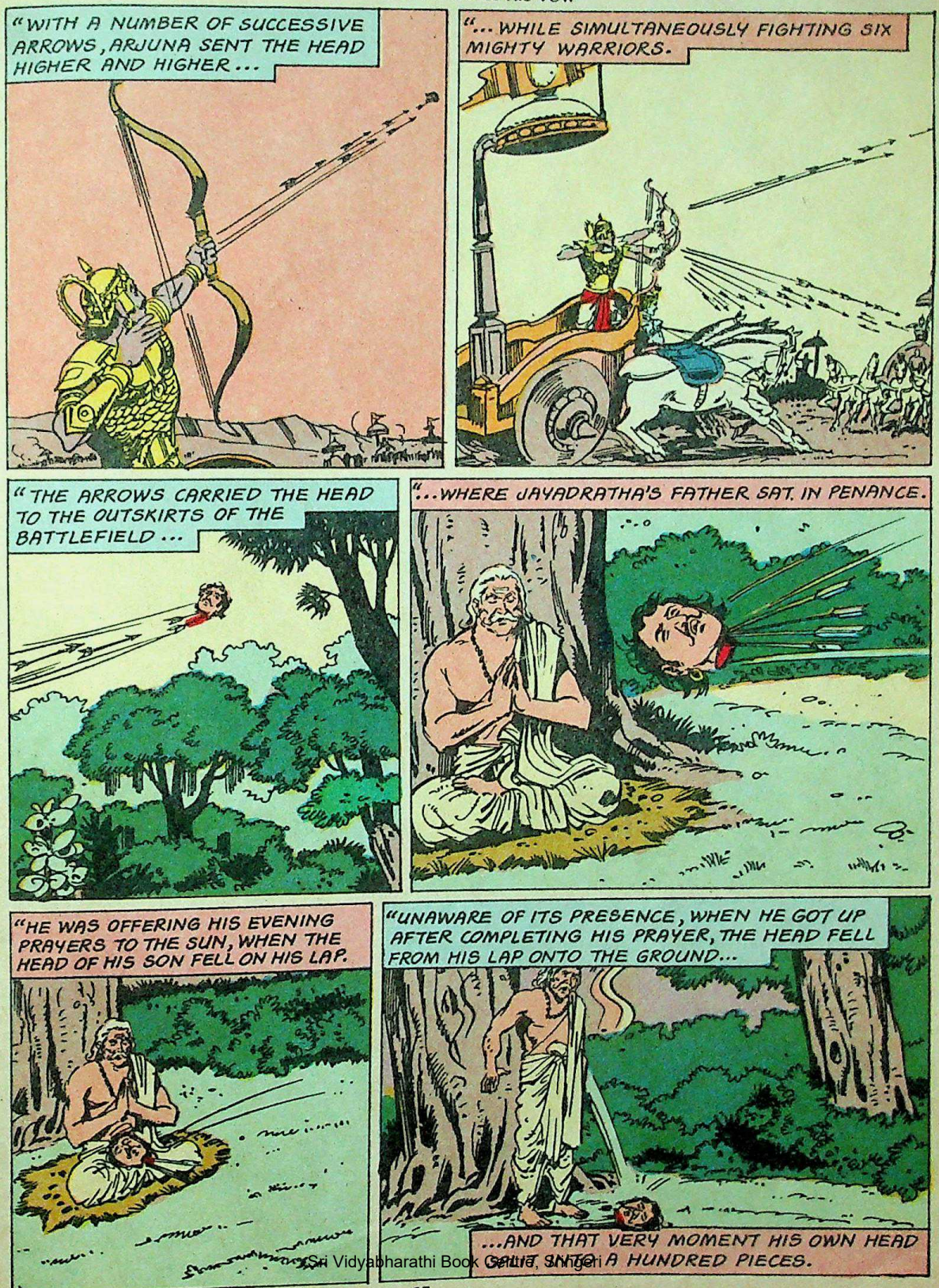

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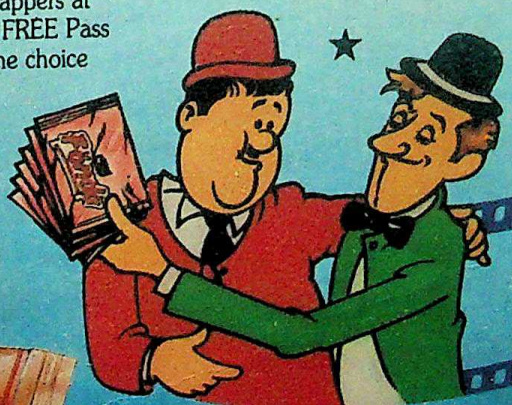

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